

# Bury Unitarian Church



*Coronation Congratulations to Their Majesties!*

# May 2023

## Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I don't know if you tire of hearing about the weather and the advancing year, but I never tire of witnessing and revelling in it! May always feels as though the struggle for the year to get going is somehow over. It's still pretty chilly but the blossom is magnificent and there are buds all over the place. We're keeping an eye out for elderflowers, and the trees we take them from are looking promising so far! But I'm particularly struck by the dandelions this year: I know they're far from everyone's favourite, but I love how brash and bright they are, and I'm always in awe of their tenacity in literally growing out of cracks in concrete.

Church life has been its usual mix of activities, community, and love over the last month, and it was a pleasure to see so many of us at the General Assembly meetings in Northamptonshire a few weeks ago. I know at least two or three people will be reporting back on how they found the meetings, and I hope that the reports might inspire some of you to consider attending next year. It's a lot of "Unitarianing" and it's certainly not a holiday, but it's nourishing, inspiring, and encouraging. And if you haven't sung together with three hundred Unitarians, you have a treat waiting for you.

This Calendar contains, as always, news of our community as well as reminders of what's going on and who's doing what. Without input from all sorts of other people, it would really just be a list of who's making tea every Sunday and what the minister is up to, so I'm really grateful to everyone who sends things in to be published: the Calendar is much more than a way for the minister to get information to people: it belongs to the congregation and is here to be used for whatever the congregation finds valuable. Please never be shy to send anything in! And if you'd like to see something new in here, please never be shy to ask if it can be added: you might be asked to create it yourself, but I'm very happy to work with you!

As ever, I send you my love,

Kate.

## **News of our community**

### **Robin Ainsworth**

As I write this, Robin remains comfortable and surrounded by his family. He is becoming weaker, and he and his family are all at peace with the fact that he will not be with us much longer.

He is receiving excellent nursing care, and he, Brenda, and their daughter and grand- and great-grandchildren are deeply appreciative of the love, prayers, phone calls and visits they are receiving from the congregation.

They remain, of course, in our prayers.

### **Terry Brady**

Terry has been in and out of hospital over the last few weeks and months, and is currently back in Salisbury hospital following an infection. He and Marguerite are grateful for the messages and support they receive from our community, despite not officially being members.

### **Jean and Howard Maden**

Congratulations to Jean and Howard Maden, who celebrate their golden wedding on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Jean and Howard were married at Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel, by Rev John Allerton, just before our new church was opened. We wish them many more happy years together.

### **Contact details for Marian Price**

From 5<sup>th</sup> May Marian will no longer have a landline and will only be contactable by mobile phone: 07974 992723



Drop in watch party at  
Bury Unitarian Church from  
9.30am, Saturday 6th May

You are invited to join us to watch the  
Coronation together.

The kettle will be on and there will be biscuits,  
but please bring something for your lunch and  
maybe some nibbles to share.

Come and go as you please.  
If you'd like any further info, just ask!

## Quiz night

Please see below for details of our next Quiz Night. Betty Kenyon will be selling tickets from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.



QUIZ NIGHT

at Bury Unitarians

**Saturday 20th May 2023**

7.00pm for 7.30pm prompt start

Ticket £5

Pie and pea supper

BYO drinks– glasses provided



## Regular Social Events

### Book Club

The Book Club has reverted to evening meetings from now until Autumn so the next gathering will take place on **Wednesday 31st May at 7pm** in the lounge at church. The book to be discussed is *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell. Drinks and nibbles as in pre-Covid days! All welcome. Parking available after 6.30pm.

The book is available from the lounge cupboard. New readers always welcome.

If you are interested in joining us have a word with any of us; Kate, Beryl Bowden, Janet, Rita, Anne Evitts, Margaret, Pam.

*Pam Gilbert*

### Camera Club

At the last meeting of the Camera Club we decided that our next meeting will be on the **15th of May** when we'll select the pictures for our June calendar - this will be on Zoom. We'll discuss future meetings, dates and locations, at this meeting.

*Roger Mills*

*Editor's note: One of the things the Camera Club does is provide the splendid covers for the monthly Calendar: thank you to them for that!*

## **Social Gatherings.**

We're continuing to hold our Saturday Social Gatherings on the last Saturday of most months.

The next gathering will be on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **Second Sunday lunches**

On **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**, you're invited to join Kate for coffee, a drink, or lunch, at the Art Picture House after the service. If you'd like to join us but either can't afford it or have just forgotten your purse that day, speak to Kate: money should never be a reason not to join us.

## **June Calendar**

The deadline for entries for the June edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** and we'll collate it at the Saturday Social Gathering on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **New regular booking**

As you may have heard, we now have a regular ongoing booking for both the lounge and the upstairs hall (including use of the vestibule), every Monday (except Bank Holidays) between 9.30 and 2.30.

The booking is from the British Red Cross, who are using the building to provide various services to refugees.

Much of their work, obviously, is confidential, so please avoid using the building during those times on a Monday. If you do need access to the building, please contact Ade.

## **Notes from the building.**

It should come as no surprise by now, that I truly love our church building. I do go on about it pretty often - usually to absolutely anyone who will listen and I've probably even lost friends over my constant warbling on the matter, but this is neither here nor there. I love it, and I'll sing that love from the rooftop of that very same building (don't tempt me, I probably will).

I get to share this love the most when we have bookings for the building. When we have visitors my love for the building is almost always reciprocated. From the joy of using the sanctuary for concerts, to the comfort of our downstairs lounge to the sheer scale and freedom of the upstairs hall, all of our spaces have had tremendous feedback regarding just how fortunate people feel to have access to the spaces we have available.

Since the pandemic and its related lockdowns, we've really struggled to find long term lettings for the building and while we have had more than a few one-off bookings, nothing has turned up that will bring in a consistent income. No matter how fond of our building people may be, lining up their needs versus making our space available is a very tricky tightrope walk for everyone involved to manage.

Very fortunately though, we've managed to negotiate that tightrope and a new letter has started using our building regularly on Mondays. It's been so nice to see the building pop back into life on a day when the only regular visitor it usually gets is myself. My favourite part of successfully managing this for us however, has been that their love of our building has been as palpable as mine and that really should cheer us all no end.

There's more information on this booking elsewhere in the calendar, and bookings are now included in the what's on page, so long as those bookings are made in advance of its release.

*Ade Brady*



## Stewards for Sunday services, May 2023

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Norah Hickton Peter Whewell
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Susan Mitchell <i>Vacancy</i>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse

## Tea and coffee rota, May 2023

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Pam Gilbert and Lois Williams
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.

If you would like to be included on the rota either for stewarding or for setting up and serving tea and coffee after services, please ask Kate to put you in touch with the relevant people: if you'd prefer not to be on the rota but can offer to help out on occasional Sundays, that would also be very gratefully received!

## Church Council Meetings

Minutes of the Church Council meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April will be available on the noticeboard in the church lounge.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June** at 7pm in the lounge.

## **Vestry Days: Saturdays.**

Last month's Vestry Saturday had to be cancelled because Kate was ill, but she's trying again in May. The idea of the Vestry Saturdays is that you can just pop in for a chat over a cup of tea, in an informal way: hopefully it will be more accessible to some people than Fridays: partly because there are no problems with parking.

Just to be clear, this isn't instead of Friday Vestry Days, and is very definitely not instead of home visits and pastoral chats over cups of tea. Some people prefer popping in to church to having someone come round.

The May Vestry Saturday will be on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **Minister's schedule, May 2023**

Kate doesn't have any planned periods of time off during May, and she'll keep everyone posted if that changes.

She is usually in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you would be very welcome: the kettle is always on.

### **Kate and Ade's days off**

As most of you already know, I try to honour Thursdays as a Sabbath, and avoid work commitments on that day where at all possible.

Ade also tries to do the same: we both love our jobs, but it's really important that we have one day in the week to rest and spend together.

Obviously, if there's an emergency we want to know, but otherwise we'd be really grateful if you could honour our Sabbath.

## **News from around the district and the denomination**

### **News from Ainsworth**

Dear Members & Friends of The Chapel

#### **Anniversary Service**

Thank you to everyone who attended our 308<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, when we were delighted to welcome Rev Beryl Allerton to lead this special service. Following the service, a reception was held in the Hall. Many thanks to Joanne for providing the cakes, the Ladies who served the teas and to all who helped in any way to make the event a success.

#### **Granville Leather**

Granville's Funeral service was held at Lytham Crematorium on 11<sup>th</sup> April. There was also a Memorial Service for Granville here at Ainsworth Chapel: 2.00pm Saturday 22nd April, followed by the Interment of his Ashes in the family grave and reception in the Hall.

Granville was Chairman of Blackpool Unitarian Church and a well-known Lay Preacher, who often took services here at Ainsworth. For many years, he was Chairman of NELUM.

Granville will be sadly missed, and to Christine, Joanne and all the family, we send our deepest sympathy.

#### **10.30 am Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May Coronation Weekend**

Our Sunday service on this Coronation Weekend will be led by Mr Paul Hubbard (Rochdale) and we look forward to welcoming him once again to our Chapel on this special Bank Holiday weekend.

At the end of the service, there will be a Loyal Toast and the planting of a rose bush 'Charlie's Rose' in the flower bed by the Chapel Porch. We hope you will be able to join us.

## **Chapel AGM**

'Thank you' to those who attended our recent Chapel AGM when we were pleased to welcome Andrew to the Chapel Committee.

There was some discussion regarding the future of the Schoolroom, which is becoming very difficult to structurally maintain. Also, the need for some Room Hire income, following the loss of our regular users during the Covid lockdowns. The increased cost of gas and electricity is also putting financial pressure on the Chapel accounts.

It was agreed to send our regular donation to 'The Send a Child to Hucklow fund' and a cheque for £150.00 has been gratefully acknowledged.

The possibility of installing a Disabled Toilet in the Chapel was briefly considered, for which expert advice and necessary official permissions will be needed. If anyone can offer any assistance, please get in touch. The Trustees were particularly encouraged to start meeting more regularly.

## **NELUM sustentation grant**

We are grateful to NELUM for a grant of £250.00 towards our Preaching commitments.

with best wishes to you all and hope to see you soon

*Shirley Horrocks*

## **Annual Meetings 2023: A report from Anne Mills**

The GA's Annual Meetings were held, last month, in Staverton, near Northampton. We seem to be returning to pre-covid numbers, with well over 300 attendees, the atmosphere was relaxed and pleasant, and it was good to chat to the many people I knew, as well as making new friends. It was a pity that we had no Motions to debate, and, certainly, this contributed to a loss of focus in the Plenary Sessions; for my own part, having chaired the Meetings, last year, I would say that a free year gives us the opportunity, in the future, to select Motions carefully, and to assemble appropriate documentation that is concise and clear in its intentions.

I joined the Anniversary Service Choir, and found this enjoyable---although extra rehearsal-time would have been useful! I also enjoyed a "Sing For Joy" Workshop, led by Sue McFarlane, which reminded us how to use our voices properly---naturally, and without strain; the session was demanding, but refreshing.

There were three break-out sessions which I found valuable, the first of which was The Associate Members' Meetings; these are usually staid affairs, but this year's was more lively than usual, with good suggestions offered. Those present felt that we ought to raise our profile, by making a definite contribution to matters Unitarian; it was suggested, and this will be taken forward, that we might sponsor a three-year term of Residential Youth Programmes, at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. It was also felt that we might have a special hymn, to sing at our meetings, or that we might, as is our right, proffer a Motion, next year; I pointed out that, if we did this, we would have to ensure that we were prepared to give sufficient work to the project, so that it was successful. The subject of Associated Members' lack of voting-rights was raised, yet again---still a sore point!

I always attend The Women's League AGM, ably chaired, this year, by Susan Holt, who will continue as President, until April, 2024---a two-year term. Sue Toulson, of Upper Chapel, Sheffield, will succeed her. Susan Wildman received her Honorary Vice-President's badge---rather late in the day, as covid-conditions had prevented any earlier ceremony. The National Women's League has already collected £2,000 towards its nominated charity, Women's Aid, and this will continue as the annual charity, until 2024.

Sadly, it was reported that several of our branches had closed, and there are not, now, sufficient branches, country-wide, to support the district-system; it is taking time to recover from covid-restrictions, and we need to adjust accordingly. We are still financially-sound, and very active, in some spheres, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to appoint officers: Susan remains as National League Treasurer, as well as President; and Joan McFarlane, National League Secretary, is still being hampered by hip-pain, which will continue until her operation takes place. We ended on a positive note, however: in August, it will be 50 years since Margaret Barr died, and we hope to celebrate her tremendous work in India; many offers of help were received, and a zoom-meeting will be arranged, to harness all this knowledge and enthusiasm, into a special service, and, possibly, a worship-pack.

Of all the sessions I attended, one in particular remains with me: "Stories from the Pandemic", and I saw, from my notes, that I had written "so glad I went to this", on the page. Rev. Oscar Sinclair, of Lincoln Unitarian Church, Nebraska, realised, mid-2022, that all was not well within his congregation. Everyone was fatigued, uninspired, apathetic. He decided to mount a project, in which his church-members would share their individual recollections, and these would combine into a collective story. He was convinced that the trauma they were all suffering was harmful, because it underlined the helplessness they all continued to experience: from themselves, from their church, and from those close to them; this brought

gradual realisation of what had been lost. 92 people volunteered their stories; they interviewed each other, and this was transcribed and reported back to the congregation; a service, later, reinforced the stories' effect. These were not simple, ordinary tales, but harrowing ones; we learned of emotions laid bare, of devastation, of tragedy. I will never forget one woman's story: "My happiest day was when I legally married my husband." Then her voice changed and became tearful. "My saddest day was when I buried two of my children, who had died from covid; it's not natural for parents to pre-decease their children." Yet the story-telling was cathartic; it brought sympathy, empathy, and renewed congregational contact. Suppressing tragedy, failing to acknowledge facts, trying to forget: these are unhelpful, when what is needed is to show true feelings and discuss them. As the session ended, we left in silence, unexpectedly moved, too stunned to speak, our thoughts with that Nebraskan congregation (and all others like it). It's impossible to convey the effect of such deep emotion, in a few words, but covid has affected the whole world---an experience that has deeply disturbed everyone.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share the experience of this year's Annual Meetings.

*Anne Mills.*

## By-Gone Times no. 35 by Betty Kenyon:

This is an article I found in: The Christian Life dated 23 February 1889

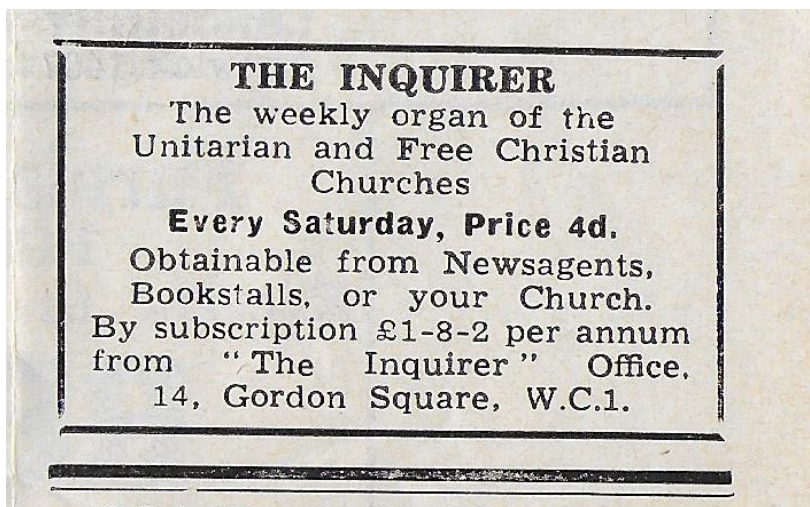
### *Unitarianism*

We are sometimes asked for a brief statement of Unitarianism. We know of no better statement of its religious and ethical purpose than the two great commandments,

*"Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy mind; and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."*

If we add to these the Unitarian principle of the right and free inquiry as expressed in the words of the apostle, *"Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good,"* and *"Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind,"* we have a pretty good statement of the Unitarian ideal.

**This is an advert in The Unitarian from May 1963**



Neville recently found a copy of The Unitarian Magazine among some Unitarian books that we have.



# Do you find this easier to read?

Almost everything we provide in print at church (including services, Calendars, letters, reports, and the minutes of most meetings) is available in a large-print format, and a recorded version of the Calendar is available on CD and on memory disk.

## Accessibility

We want our church and our community to be as accessible to everyone as it possibly can be. As well as providing everything in large print, we have a hearing loop, wheelchair access at the back of the building, and an accessible toilet.

Our services and other events are fidget-friendly!

We have also recently taken possession of a new lightweight, easily collapsible, sturdy wheelchair. The wheelchair lives in the cupboard under the front stairs, and you are free to use it at any time it would be useful in church.

If you have a short-term need at home and would like to borrow it, please speak to one of the church officers.

We know that there will be needs we haven't accounted for: if there is anything which would make it easier for you to engage with what we do, please please do tell us!

## Regular Events (all subject to change)

### Sundays:

11.15am                      Worship in person at Bury

### First Sunday of most months:

10.30am                      Worship in person at Ainsworth

### Second Saturday of each month:

10.am til 3pm approx.: Minister's Vestry Saturday

### Second Sunday of each month:

12.30 (approx.)              Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink. (If the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

### Last Sunday of each month:

12.30pm                      Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

### Second and fourth Sundays of each month:

2pm                              Zoom worship (Zoom link: 849 7456 6116)

### Second and fourth Mondays of each month (altered for May):

7pm                              Camera club (normally online)

### Second Tuesday of each month:

7pm                              Online midweek meditation session

### Last Wednesday of each month:

2pm/7pm                      Book club

### Most Fridays:

10am til 3pm (approx.) Minister's Vestry Day:

### Last Saturday of each month:

11am-1pm (approx.) Saturday Social Gathering

## What's on: May 2023

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**                      *11.30: Church flower team working in the lounge and worship area*

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May**                        10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**                     9.30 am: Drop in watch party for the Coronation of King Charles III

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

11.15am, Bury:

Service in church

10.30am, Ainsworth:

Service led by Paul Hubbard

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

7pm: Online meditation (*please let Kate know by Monday morning if you would like to attend this*).

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

*11am – 1pm: Booking in downstairs lounge*

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Saturday

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church

12.30 approx:

Second Sunday lunch

2pm:

Zoom service

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

*9.30 – 2.30: British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May:** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May** 7pm for 7.30pm: Quiz night

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

11.15am Bury: Service in church

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** Teatime: deadline for entries for the June edition of the *Calendar*.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May** 10am – 4pm: *lounge booking (provisional)*.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May** 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering,

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

11.15am Bury: Service in church  
12.30: Inclusive communion  
2pm: Zoom service

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May** 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May** 7pm: Book club meeting in church to discuss *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell.

## Church Information:

### Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

[revkatemckenna@gmail.com](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)

Church address: 1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: [www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk](http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk)

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

### Church officers

Chair of trustees: Susan Holt 07876 716563

Chair of church council: Jean Maden

Church secretary: Karen Hampson 0161 766 2283

Chair of congregation: Betty Kenyon 01204 887222

Church treasurer: Lynda Arthur

### Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857



***Mallard & Primulas in the spring***





**50th wedding anniversary of Jean Maden (nee Brown)  
and Howard Maden. Married at Ainsworth  
Unitarian Church by the Rev. John Allerton  
on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1973.**



**Sam and Sam's Grown Up**



**Wooded Glen**